



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Readers:

In a country as young as America, we do not have many opportunities to celebrate 200-year anniversaries. When we do, it is obviously special. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is very proud of its history – a history now rooted in 200 years of science serving the American people.

President Thomas Jefferson created the Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1807 to survey and map the country's coastline. The survey's vital role in providing safer travel on the seas and promoting commerce was worthy of its status as the young Nation's first physical science agency.

To accomplish this important mission Congress authorized President Jefferson "to cause proper and intelligent persons to be employed, and also such of the public vessels in actual service, as he may judge expedient, and to give such instructions for regulating their conduct as to him may appear proper." A Swiss immigrant named Rudolph Hassler brought together mathematicians, cartographers, geodesists, meteorologists, hydrographers, topographers, sailors, laborers, and administrators to build the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The legacy first started by President Jefferson and Rudolph Hassler lives on today throughout NOAA. The agency has grown into a world-class scientific organization whose employees are highly regarded as leaders in their respective fields. The NOAA legacy has blossomed for two centuries, and with the agency's critical role in many of today's most pressing issues, NOAA's leadership role is well-secured for generations to come.

NOAA's importance to Americans' everyday lives has grown a great deal over the past 200 years, and this book will give you an idea of the scope and impact of the agency. I am proud to be part of such an important and notable legacy, and I want to extend my sincere thanks to all past and current NOAA employees, Congressional supporters, and all of our friends and partners.



Sincerely,

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere

THE ADMINISTRATOR





THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Readers:

Two-hundred years ago, President Jefferson foresaw the tremendous value of ocean-based commerce and trade to our young and fledgling Nation. He created the Survey of the Coast in part to ensure the country's economic foundation could be built upon safe, reliable marine transportation. Two centuries later, that survey has evolved into the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As a division of the Department of Commerce, it remains an integral part of America's economy.

With responsibility for our Nation's fisheries, ports, weather and climate, as well as environmental stewardship, NOAA touches nearly one-third of our country's gross domestic product. NOAA has a clear legacy of contributing to the strong foundation of our Nation's economy. The agency plays a vital role in the Department of Commerce's economic agenda, and serves on the front lines of protecting and preserving our environment.

President Jefferson could not have imagined the tremendous technological revolution of the past few decades, and the way in which our world has progressed and developed. Yet the importance of understanding the environment's intertwined role with the economy remains just as salient today as it was in 1807.

On this occasion of 200 years of superior service to the country, I congratulate NOAA and its predecessor agencies, and thank the men and women who serve as the guardians of our Nation's environmental treasures.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Carlos M. Gutierrez is located in the bottom right corner, above his printed name.

Carlos M. Gutierrez

Secretary of Commerce